

Message Text

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ORIGIN OMB-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04

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EA/ANP:MMICHAUD (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262207

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: POPPY STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITIES

1. US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY
OBTAINING NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.
IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO RELEASE OPIUM FROM THE US NATIONAL
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STOCKPILE RECENTLY TO AVERT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SHORTAGE

IN THE US. WE EXPECT A FURTHER SHORTFALL OF NORMAL SUPPLIES IN 1975 WHICH CANNOT BE FULLY MET BY THE STOCK-PILE RELEASE PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. PROCESSING OF THE TURKISH CROP COULD HELP RELIEVE THE WORLD SHORTAGE AND THUS WE CONSIDER IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT TURKEY'S 1974/1975 POPPY STRAW CROP BE PROCESSED PROMPTLY IN 1975.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO RESUME POPPY CULTIVATION, BUT TO PROHIBIT HAND INCISION. RATHER, THE GOT PLANS TO COLLECT ONLY UNINCISED CAPSULES (POPPY STRAW) FOR EXTRACTION OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS (MORPHINE BASE).

3. SINCE THE PROCESSING FACTORY WHICH TURKEY INTENDS TO BUILD WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL BEFORE SUMMER OF 1976 AT THE EARLIEST, THE 1974/1975 CROP MUST BE PROCESSED BY CURRENT PROCESSORS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IF IT IS TO BE PROCESSED IN 1975.

4. THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY THE ADDRESSEE POSTS HAVE POPPY STRAW PROCESSING CAPABILITY. IN ORDER FOR US TO JUDGE WHETHER THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE AVAILABLE PROCESSING CAPACITY FOR THE TURKISH CROP, WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ASAP IN RESPECT OF EACH COUNTRY:

A. DATA CONCERNING NUMBER OF METRIC TONS OF STRAW PROCESSED IN EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND SOURCE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES OF STRAW.

B. ESTIMATE OF STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITY IN METRIC TONS UNDER CURRENT OPERATING PROCEDURES WHICH SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED, E.G. NUMBER OF MONTHS PLANT IS OPERATED, ETC.

C. ESTIMATE OF STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITY IN METRIC TONS ASSUMING YEAR ROUND FULL CAPACITY PROCESSING.

D. ESTIMATE OF STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITY IN METRIC TONS IF ONLY THE FIRST STAGE OF EXTRACTION TO "LIQUOR" IS COMPLETED; I.E., NOT CONSIDERING CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBSEQUENT STEPS WHICH REFINE THE PRODUCT INTO MORPHINE AND CODEINE. (US PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORIES HAVE CAPABILITY TO UTILIZE "LIQUOR" TO MAKE MORPHINE AND CODEINE ALBEIT US IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON THOSE PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED.)

5. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD REPORT FULLEST AVAILABLE INFO TO DEPARTMENT WITH INFO GENEVA AND ANKARA. REPORTS TO

WASHINGTON SHOULD BE SLUGGED PASS ED JOHNSON OF OMB.

6. FOR THE HAGUE: WE HAVE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ANKARA 7081, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NETHERLANDS PROCESSING CAPABILITY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DESIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

7. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF SHORTAGE SITUATION WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES.

8. FOR ANKARA: AVAILABILITY OF READY PURCHASERS FOR TURKISH POPPY STRAW SHOULD HELP REINFORCE GOT RESOLVE TO STICK TO STRAW PROCESSING RESTRICTION. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. AT LATER DATE, WE MAY WISH SELECTIVELY PASS SOME OF INFO DEVELOPED TO GOT THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. INGERSOLL

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